

Barren County Early College Magnet – FAQ

What is a magnet school?

A magnet school can be described by definition. It is meant to attract – students who are serious about their learning and desire to take their overall academic experience to a higher level.

Why Does Barren County want this or need it?

We had been involved with Advanced Placement and dual credit for a number of years, however, in 2010 the magnet school officially began. In summary, we were offering enough post-secondary course work to give students a good head start on college. It was the perfect time to put an all encompassing structure around our many high performance programs and let students have the benefits of an official magnet school.

What will a student gain from this?

Students who participate will be part of the true college experience. Transitioning to the first year of classes on campus will only require acclimating to the social life. Their academic house will be in order.

I have heard magnet schools are selective, will this one be?

No and yes. No in the fact it will be open to any one for application. Yes in the fact it will be open to any one for application. Those students who have exhibited a propensity to excel in academic work throughout their school years will be given first priority. Students who have the observed potential to gain from the program may be admitted on an individual basis after consultation with parents and counselors.

Can students be dismissed from the program?

Yes. Specific guidelines are in place. Students, parents, and school officials will sign a binding agreement outlining all expectations. Students who cannot meet these guidelines will return to the regular program of studies at BCHS.

Will this program be difficult?

Yes. The Early College Magnet School is meant for the student who is serious about their academic work and seeks to be prepared to the utmost for college. Supports will be in place for those students who are active in extracurricular activities and/or have demanding home or work responsibilities. The program is not only meant to be challenging, but to also bring out the best in each and every student.

Once a student starts, can they “drop out” of the program?

Again, the magnet school program is meant for the student who is serious about the highest level of academic achievement. It is not built to be a “try it and see if you like it” process. It is assumed that students who enter the school will be fully prepared to participate in rigorous course work and to seek out resources and support when needed. It is understood that on occasion extenuating circumstances may happen and will be dealt with on an individual basis.

How will this program open new doors of opportunities for students in terms of scholarships and college acceptance?

Having a principal who is designated just for this program will give students the opportunity to work individually with a principal on scholarship and college admissions papers. We believe that having Barren County Early College Magnet on a transcript and application will signify academically strong students.

Can students who are not part of the magnet still take AP and dual credit classes?

Yes. They just need to be aware that magnet students will have priority in terms of scheduling and placement.